

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3193

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 6906

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: MANLEY REBUTS CHARGES

REF: KINGSTON 6661

SUMMARY: EMERGING FROM HIS VACATION, PRIME MINISTER MANLEY HAS ISSUED A LONG, DETAILED REBUTTAL OF THE RECENT CHARGES MADE AGAINST HIM AND OTHERS BY LT. COL. LLOYD. THE REBUTTAL, HOWEVER, DOES NOT QUITE CONVINCE AND FAILS TO MENTION ANY OF THE OTHER MAJOR ALLEGATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PILING UP IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS. MANLEY HAS MOUNTING PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY

1. PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ISSUED A LONG STATEMENT AUGUST 30 IN REBUTTAL TO THE CHARGES BY OUSTED LT. COL. LLOYD ON CORRUPTION IN THE MILITARY (REFTEL). MANLEY DENIED THAT HE KNEW OF TORTURE BEING USED BY THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE UNIT (MIU) AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS SUING THE DAILY GLEANER AND COLOMUNIST JOHN HEARNE FOR LIBEL. HE SAID THAT COL. LLOYD WAS OUSTED FROM THE ARMY BECAUSE OF A NUMBER OF CHARGES, AND BECAUSE LLOYD'S PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH GENERAL GREEN (FEFENSE FORCE COMMANDER) HAD DETERIORATED TO THE
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EXTENT THAT THE MORALE OF THE ARMY WAS VEING AFFECTED.

2. MOST OF THE REBUTTAL READS LIKE A LEGAL BRIEF, AND IS FULL OF DATES, TIMES, ETC. REFUTING LLOYD POINT BY POINT. MANLEY MAKES A BIG POINT OF THE THEFT OF FOUR MACHINE GUNS, WHICH WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COL. LLOYD. " I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE STOLEN SUB-MACHINE GUNS CONTINUE TO PLAY A MAJOR PART IN CRIMINAL

ACTIVITIES." THE STATEMENT STOPS SHORT OF ALLEGING THAT LLOYD WAS ACTUALLY INVOLVED IN THE THEFT. THE BRUNT OF THE WHOLE STATEMENT, HOWEVER, IS A STRONG DENIAL THAT TORTURE EVER OCCURRED, OR THAT IF IT DID MANLEY WAS AWARE OF IT. HE CONCLUDES: "I DO NOT APPROVE OF TORTURE. I HAVE NEVER ORDERED TORTURE NOR WOULD I EVER DO SO. EQUALLY, I DO NOT EMPLOY MURDER OFFICIALLLY OR UNOFFICIALLY AS PART OF A POLITICAL OR ANY OTHER STRATEGY. AND FINALLY, NO OFFICER OR ADVISER HAS EVER BEEN FORCED TO RESIGN BY ME BECAUSE OF A PROTEST ABOUT TORTURE NOR HAVE ANY ADVISERS OR ASSOCIATES OF MINE AIDED AND ABETTED ME IN POLICIES INVOLVING TORTURE NOR EVER GIVEN ME ANY COUNSEL OF THAT KIND."

3. THE ONLY MENTION IN THE STATEMENT OF THE GREEN BAY INCIDENT, OR INDEED OF ANY OF THE OTHER ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION AND MALFEASANCE, IS A SHORT PARAGRAPH TOWARD THE END. "WITH RESPECT TO 'OFFICIAL MURDER' I AM LED TO WONDER WHETHER HE IS MAKING REFERENCE TO THE GREEN BAY CASE AND DOES SO IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT I HAVE STATED SOLEMNLY IN THE NATION'S PARLIAMENT THAT NEITHER I NOR MY CABINET COLLEAGUES HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE GREEN BAY AFFAIR UNTIL AFTER THE INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED."

4. COMMENT: THE STATEMENT IS A STRONG BRIEF, BUT CURIOUSLY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN MORE BY LAWYERS FOR A COURO THAN AS A PUBLIC DOCUMEPNDMO SWAY PUBLIC OPINION. LLOYD IS, IN FACT, BRINGING HIS DISMISSAL BEFORE THE COURTS, BUT IT SEEMS THAT THE LEGAL ASPECT IS, OR SHOULD BE, ABOUT NUMBER THREE ON MANLEY'S WORRY LIST. HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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FIRST WORRY IS THE CONTINUING AND MOUNTING LIST OF CHARGES ABOUT HIS GOVERNMENT, THE MIU, MASSIVE ELECTORAL FRAUD, "SPIES", ETC. THE JLP AND THE GLEANER ARE SCORING WITH THESE CAREFULLY TIMED REVELATIONS. PRIOR TO HIS VACATION MANLEY ASSEMED TO BE MOVING SUCCESSFULLY TO ESTABLISH A "MRPM CLEAN" IMAGE, BUT HIS OPPONENTS HAVE NOT BEEN ON VACATION. THUS HE HAS A SERIOURS, AND GROWING, PUBLIC OPINION PROBLEM. MANLEY'S SECOND BIGGEST IMMEDIATE WORRY IS THE UPCOMING PEOPLES' NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) CONFERENCE. JOCKEYING FOR POSITION IS GETTING FIERCE, AND SOME HEAVYWEIGHTS ON THE MODERATE PNP SIDE SUCH AS THE GOVERNOR GENERAQL HIMSELF HAVE GONE PUBLIC WITHIN THE WEEK WITH CRITICISMS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE. THE LEFT WING IS EQUALLY VOCAL AGAINST THE RIGHT WING. THE COMMUNISTS NOW OR SOON WILL HAVE A STRUCTURE PARTY, DRAWING OFF LEFT WING SUPPORT. MANLEY HAS TO SORT THIS OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GRAVELY DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION.

THE STATEMENT IS STRIKINGLY REMINISCENT OF WATERGATE -- DETAILED DENIALS, BUT DENIALS THAT DON'T QUITE CONVINCE AND DENY MOSTLY PERIPHERAL ITEMS IN A WIDENING NET OF ACCUSATIONS, AND FREQUENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF "INVESTIGATIONS" OF THE ALLEGATIONS. THE STATEMENT IS SIGNIFICANT FOR WHAT IT DOES NOT SAY. ASIDE FROM THE BRIEF MENTION OF GREEN BAY, THERE IS NO ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH ANY OF THE

OTHER SERIOUS CHARGES. OF COURSE WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT ELSE MANLEY
WILL COME UP WITH AS A RIPOSTE TO THE CHARGES. HE HAS ISSUED A
SHORT STATEMENT ABSOLUTELY DENYING THE CHARGES OF ALBERT ROBINSON
AND PROMISING A FULL STATEMENT (SEE KINGSTON 6836). HIS OVERRIDING
CONCERN, EVEN ABOVE THE PROTO-WATERGATE, MUST BE THE PROSPECT OF
LOSING HIS CHARISMATIC HOLD OVER HIS MASS BASE, THE LOWER CLASS
FARMERS AND WORKERS, WHO ARE FINDING LIFE MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT.
SINCE MANLEY CANNOT PRVIDE BREAD, HE MUST AT LEAST PROVIDE
CIRCUSES AND SCAPEGOATS.
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